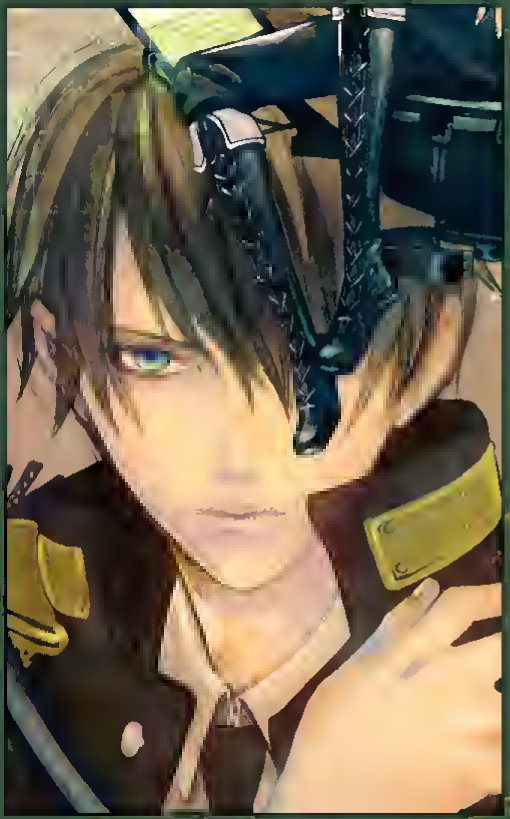

Ilegenes
-Kokuyou no Kiseki-

Bliss

Volume 2 Chapter 9

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By: Kuwabara Mizuna & Ishizue Kachiru

Credits

Scanner: Kinky
Translator: Junyi
Cleaner: Ilyse
Typesetter: Mero
Proofreader: Alethiaxx
QC: Alethiaxx, Crescent Ellrohan

http://bliss.diamond-virgin.net Bliss.Scanlations@gmail.com

Bliss is Hiring

http://bliss.diamond-virgin.net

Editors
Proofreaders
Quality Control
Japanese/Chinese Translators

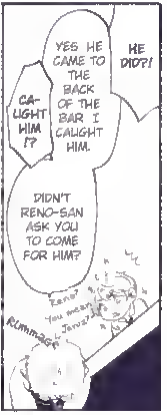
Contact Us: Bliss.Scanlations@gmail.com

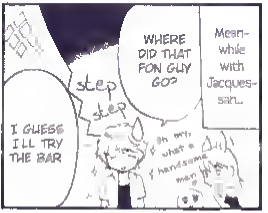
イルゲネス

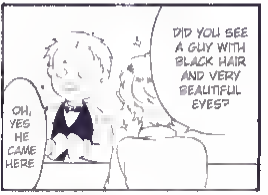
黒髪の軌跡

ALL THE MORE REASON FOR HIM TO BE WORRIED
IT'S A VERY ADORABLE CAT... THOUGH
YEAH THE CAT SEEMS TO HAVE A TENDENCY TO RUN AWAY
Should I say?
BY THE WAY, ES IS LOOKING FOR HIS CAT YOU'RE OK WITH THAT?

Blue eye
Green eye
HERE


HE DID?!
YES HE CAME TO THE BACK OF THE BAR I CAUGHT HIM.
CAUGHT HIM !?
DIDN'T RENO-SAN ASK YOU TO COME FOR HIM?
Reno?
You mean Jacques?
Rummage


I GUESS I'LL TRY THE BAR
step step
WHERE DID THAT FON GUY GO?
Meanwhile with Jacques-san...
Oh my! What a handsome man!!


OH, YES HE CAME HERE
DID YOU SEE A GUY WITH BLACK HAIR AND VERY BEAUTIFUL EYES?

Purr purr
ARE THERE SUCH NICE PEOPLE OUT THERE?
This is the other side of the island
YEAH A GOOD GUY
IT WOULD BE NICE TO HAVE A GOOD GUY CARE FOR YOU

ルゲネ
02

02

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第7話

When I was 13..
My parents were murdered by people from the black market.
MURDERED BY PEOPLE FROM THE BLACK MARKET...?
WHY...?
BECAUSE MY PARENTS WERE PART OF A RADICAL GROUP THAT OPPOSED THE SELLING OF CLONES

THOSE PEOPLE INVADED MY HOME IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT.
AND FIRED AT MY FATHER'S HEAD
AND THEN MY MOTHER ALSO...
clench
AFTER THEY FELL DOWN, THE BLOOD KEPT POURING OUT AND IT WOULDN'T STOP
WAS HE THERE THE WHOLE TIME...?
CREATING PEOPLE THAT HAVE ALREADY DIED.
MATING HUMANS WITH ANIMALS.
CREATING IDEAL CHILDREN FOR COUPLES
MY PARENTS DIDN'T AGREE WITH THIS.

I STILL DREAM OF THE TRAGEDY THAT HAPPENED IN FRONT OF ME
THE PILLS HELP A LITTLE,
BUT ON DAYS WHEN I GET AGITATED...
I'll dream of it...
SHAKE
!
FON

EVEN JUST A LITTLE IS FINE
I'LL LISTEN TO YOU.

AGAIN WITH THAT FAMILY...!
LOOK, THE PEOPLE WHO MOVED IN BEFORE...
The police came again
THE CHILD IS ONLY 13, YOU KNOW?
ONLY 13? HOW PITIFUL... SO YOUNG TO HAVE HIS PARENTS PASS AWAY
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE HE HAS ANY OTHER RELATIVES TO GO TO EITHER
OF COURSE NOT IF THEY TOOK HIM IN, THEY'D END UP DEAD LIKE HIS PARENTS
THAT FAMILY ARE RADICALS WHO OPPOSE THE SELLING OF CLONES AREN'T THEY?
YE-H. BUT THERE SEEM TO BE A LOT OF SUPPORTERS, TOO.
THAT'S WHY THE BLACK MARKET WOULD...

Black market...?

That's...
Those people...

DON'T TALK ABOUT THAT.
BUT IT'S TRUE, ISN'T IT?

twitch
FON?
.....
Who?
OH. BLACK HAIR AND A MOLE IN THE CORNER OF ONE EYE... YOU MUST BE FON.
smile
shake
FON.
shake
SHOCK
I'VE HEARD MUCH ABOUT YOU FROM YOUR FATHER...
.....
DON'T BE AFRAID.
I'M HERE TO GET YOU.

FAMILY...?
THAT'S RIGHT, FAMILY.
I CAME HERE BECAUSE I'D LIKE TO BE YOUR FAMILY.
YOUR PARENTS AND I WERE GOOD FRIENDS.
WITH MY PARENTS...
THEY HAD A VERY DANGEROUS JOB... SO IN CASE SOMETHING HAPPENED, THEY WANTED ME TO TAKE CARE OF YOU.
WE MADE A PROMISE.
DO YOU WANT TO GO WITH ME?
.....
A kind smile...

A nostalgic feeling...
.....
...WELL?
NICE TO MEET YOU...
I'M LITTENGER.
squeeze
LET'S GET ALONG WELL, MY SON.
And so I became Professor Littenber's adopted son.

Father didn't make me feel like he was unapproachable.
He loved me as though I was his real son.
EVERY TIME I REMEMBER THAT NIGHT, I REMEMBER MY HATRED FOR THE BLACK MARKET...

FATHER WAS THE FIRST PERSON ON THIS ISLAND TO OPEN A GENETIC ENGINEERING RESEARCH FACILITY.
I CAN'T DENY THAT THAT WAS THE MOMENT THIS ISLAND BECAME THE "GENETIC SODOM".
...BUT HE PROBABLY DIDN'T WISH FOR THE EXISTENCE OF MAN-MADE CLONES AND THE BLACK MARKET.
BUT EVERYONE CALLED HIM "FATHER" LIKE THEY REALLY UNDERSTOOD HIM.
Everyone is the same...
Because I was the professor's adopted son, they get close to me and taunt me.

Why didn't anyone realize it?
THOSE GUYS DON'T CARE ABOUT HUMAN LIVES
THE PROFESSOR IS DIFFERENT FROM THE GUYS IN THE BLACK MARKET
The black market treats human lives as things to be used and discarded
Those who stand in the way, they just...!
...Ugh
FON...

I won't forgive the black market...!
The bastards...
who took away my parents' lives...
...
Unh...
Ah...

That's why he hates the black market so much...
Watching his parents get killed in front of him must've been terrible...
PLEASE DON'T
...CARRY THIS PAIN ALONE.
It must've been painful to speak about such a past...

.....
LOOKS LIKE HE CALMED DOWN.
Rustle

WE HAVE A BREAK TODAY ANYWAY SO WHY DON'T WE GO OUT?
FCN.
YOU EITHER STUDY OR GO TO THE TRAINING GROUNDS DURING BREAKS, RIGHT?
YOU HAVE TO RELAX A BIT, TOO.
Ok. I'll hurry and change.
...OUTSIDE?

!
BUT WE DON'T HAVE PERMISSION FROM THE SCHOOL TO GO OUT
A SIMPLE STROLL ON SCHOOL GROUNDS IS ENOUGH TO CHEER YOU UP AND TODAY'S WEATHER IS REALLY NICE TOO

MEOW
WHY IS THERE A CAT IN A MILITARY SCHOOL?
A CAT?
brush
there there
IT PROBABLY BELONGS TO ONE OF THE PLATING
LOOK, IT HAS A COLLAR
Meow
IT DOES IS IT LOST?
NO. THE OWNER IS PROBABLY NEARBY
Purr
Stroke

I'VE BEEN THINKING SINCE THE RIDING COMPETITION. YOU REALLY LIKE ANIMALS DON'T YOU?
.....
OH...
EVEN THOUGH I'VE NEVER HAD A PET...
I SEE.
Hah.
He gets close to animals so easily.
YEAH
I REALLY LIKE THEM.

Yet he doesn't notice people who genuinely want to be friends with him.
THERE ARE PLENTY, TOO
WHY DON'T YOU START WITH ME?
I THINK THAT IT'D BE NICE IF YOU CAN RELY MORE ON OTHERS
BECAUSE FON SOMETIMES GIVES OFF A FEELING OF BEING ALONE IN A DIFFERENT WORLD
NOTH-ING
WHAT DID YOU SAY JACQUES?
?
Rely...?

HE'S PROBABLY GOING BACK TO HIS OWNER.
!
pitter patter
Pet
WE SHOULD GO TOO. WE HAVEN'T WALKED ENOUGH YET
Pain
Because I...
I've never thought about reliance or anything like that...
Love
.....

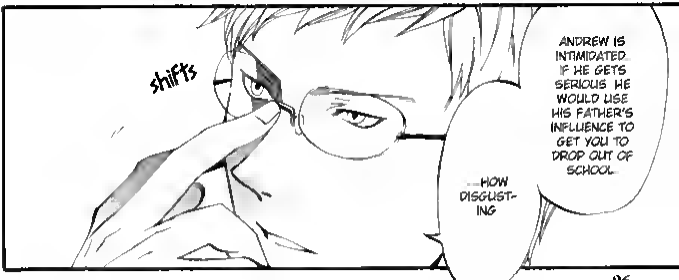
Your hatred for
The black market.
SFX: Ba-THUMP
Don't forget.

The voice just now...?
FON? WHAT'S WRONG?
.....?
NOTH-ING...!
!
I'M ALRIGHT

第8話

THEY SAID YOU DIDN'T SUBMIT YOUR REPORT AGAIN?
.....
YOU'VE ALMOST REACHED THE END OF YOUR PATIENCE, RIGHT, FON?

IF IT WERE JUST MERE THREATS THAT'D BE FINE BUT MESSING AROUND WITH GUNS IS OVERDOING IT
DO THEY THINK THEY CAN JUST USE THEIR POWER TO COVER UP THE TRUTH AFTER THEY'VE KILLED SOMEONE? HOW DARE THEY!
YEAH


shifts
ANDREW IS INTIMIDATED IF HE GETS SERIOUS HE WOULD USE HIS FATHER'S INFLUENCE TO GET YOU TO DROP OUT OF SCHOOL
—HOW DISGUSTING

TRUE... IF IT WASN'T FOR FON AT THE TIME JACQUES REALLY WOULD'VE DIED
WE MUSTN'T, CRUDUP. IF WE DO THAT, THEN WE'LL BE JUST LIKE THEM.
Then we'll just give them an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth! We'll rig their guns, too!
ISN'T THERE ANY WAY WE CAN BREAK THEIR SPIRITS?

WHAT IS IT?

...OH
THERE IS A VERY GOOD WAY

!
VISITATION DAY.

FROM ANDREW'S PERSONALITY, HE'LL PROBABLY DO SOMETHING AGAINST US TO SHOW OFF IN FRONT OF HIS PARENTS.
...THEN...

VISITATION DAY...
ONCE EVERY YEAR, WE HAVE TO SHOW THE RESULTS OF OUR DAILY TRAINING. IN OTHER WORDS, THROUGH A PE FESTIVAL.

I SEE NOT ONLY WILL THE PARENTS SHOW UP THAT DAY BUT ALSO THE MILITARY CADRE AND GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL.
THE BEST WAY TO BREAK THOSE WHO ONLY RELY ON THEIR PARENTS' INFLUENCE IS TO EMBARRASS THEM IN FRONT OF THEIR PARENTS

OKAY...
HORSEMANSHIP SWORDSMANSHIP SHOOTING, CHESS...
AMONG THOSE SUBJECTS THE ODDS OF HIM CHOOSING THE HORSEBACK DUEL IS THE HIGHEST
THEN WE'LL JUST SIGN UP FOR THAT ONE AFTERWARDS THEY'LL JUST DELIVER THEMSELVES TO US
THAT DOES SEEM LIKE SOMETHING THEY'D DO...
HOW SHOULD WE MAKE THEM PAY?
THEN IT'S DECIDED. LET'S WORK ON OUR BATTLE PLAN...

Damn it! They're just Elf-enbeins!
HE'S THROWING ANOTHER TANTRUM
You guys always get caught by them!
Sorry...
Stir...
BAM
I CAN'T STAND THEM GETTING A BIG EGO. I JUST HAVE TO SAY ONE WORD TO MY FATHER AND THEY'LL BE KICKED OUT OF SCHOOL
JANIS!
A WAY TO GET RID OF THEM? I DON'T KNOW
HAVE YOU THOUGHT OF A WAY TO GET RID OF THEM YET? THINK OF SOMETHING ALREADY!
Stir
Stir
LOOK, HOW ABOUT STEALING THE ANSWERS FOR THE NEXT EXAM FROM THE INSTRUCTOR'S OFFICE AND THEN PUTTING IT INTO HIS BAG OR SOMETHING?
IF WE DO THAT, WE'LL JUST TURN OURSELVES INTO SUSPECTS WON'T WE?

...Ugh!
THEN BRING A GIRL INTO THE DORM WE CAN CREATE SOME FAKE PICTURES!
THEN WHO'LL BE THE GIRL? DO YOU WANT TO DO IT, ANDREW? I'M WELL-BUILT AND MY SKIN IS DARK
Ugh... I'm so angry!
grind grind
The instructors all love that guy, too! This school is mine, you know!
.....
HE SAID IT'S HIS...
!!
GASP
ANDREW, THERE IS STILL ANOTHER WAY
THAT IS THE UPCOMING EVENT

Everyone, with his own axe to grind,
welcomed the people during the opening day of the visitation...

Jacques-nosan is so handsome~~~!!
SQUEAL
Nii-san!
YOUR SISTER?
YEAH.
6-2

CRUDUP, NICOLAS HOW ARE YOUR PREPARATIONS GOING?
CLomP
PERFECT AS PLANNED!
Grin
CLr
EVERYTHING OVER HERE IS READY TO GO, AS WELL JACQUES, WHAT ABOUT YOU?
CLomP
IT WENT SMOOTHLY, TOO.
CLomP
CLomP
Good..
CLC

!
OH, AND HERE I THOUGHT I SMELLED PEASANTS. AREN'T THESE ELFENBEINS? DID YOU COME TO LOSE TO ME?
I WON'T LOSE TO YOU
DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND, FON FORTINGR\S? YOU WILL DEFINITELY LOSE.
HNN. IT'S GREAT THAT YOU'RE SO CONFIDENT.
THE LOSER WILL HAVE TO DANCE NAKED AT TONIGHT'S PARTY. DO YOU ACCEPT?
.....
Andrew... You're digging your own grave.

THE TWO REPRESENTATIVES, PLEASE STEP FORWARD.
CHEER
brush.
The first to snatch away the other's flower will be the winner.—

He he he
THE LOSER HAS TO DANCE NAKED TONIGHT
GOT IT?
I GOT IT
HEHEHE. YOU'LL BE THE ONE HUMILIATED IN FRONT OF ALL THESE PEOPLE FON FORTINBRAS!
FATHER, PLEASE WATCH MY HEROIC PERFORMANCE!
SLAUGHTER
FON FORTINBRAS'S BODY-GUARDS?
They're all just for show.
Hmph

SCRRAAPE
HOW INTERESTING CAN IT GET?
HEY, LET'S GO CHECK OUT THE HORSERACK DUEL!
IT'S JUST PLAYING AROUND WITH FAKE SWORDS...
LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING INTERESTING HAS HAPPENED
HORSEBACK DUEL? ISN'T IT A HORSE-RIDING COMPETITION?
ISN'T IT?
shock
Whaooo
HEY HEY THIS IS THE HORSEBACK DUEL?
AAG
whoosh

IF IT'S A DUEL ANDREW WILL...
FORGET HORSE-RIDING
WHINNY
TURN
DUE TO JACQUES BERNE'S PROTECTION, WE CAN'T GET CLOSE TO FON FORTINBRAS AT ALL...
CLANG
CLANG
SLASH
THIS IS WEIRD
SAK. GALLOP
IT'S ALMOST TIME ISN'T IT?

Huey! Phillip! What's going on!?
Uh, I really cut into it, but.
But why...
Why didn't it fall?
As chance would have it,
I com-pletely saw through your plan!
Whoosh
Eh?
!?
!
!!

WHA...
BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG
ya...!
Weeeee
Uwaa-aaaah-hhh! Save me!!
Huey!
SPXXCALLOP
What are you doing? Hurry up and calm your horse down...

What the!?
STATA
Somber?
?
GENERAL WOHLEN... ISN'T THAT YOUR SON?
.....
Ah
D-do I don't look! But let's look anyway!
ah
W-w-w-w-w-why
Haaaa
is that picture here...?
HOW DID IT...
JANIS...
!?
YOU REALLY ARE VERY STRONG
BUT CAN YOU DEFEAT ME LIKE THIS?
CLICK

SFX: TA-DAAAH
T-this is...!
The thing that Nicolas worked on through the night...!
GASP
You're not sleeping yet?
Yeah, just for a while...
FOR-GIVE ME, JANIS...
What are you doing? Damn it.
Go ahead and keep doing such despicable things, Elfenbein!

GALLOP
Let's end this now, Fon Fortin-bras!
..Ugh
GALLOP
GALLOP
.....
GALLOP
UNTIL NOW, EXACTLY WHO WAS THE ONE DOING DESPICABLE THINGS?

Huh? What are you doing?
BUH!
thud
!?
SFX: SCREECH
SNIFF
SNIFF
SNIFF
AROUSED
AROUSED
AROUSED
NO, no! In front, in front!
W- what? Wait...
looking around

THAT HORSE WON'T COME OVER.
BECAUSE MINE IS A MALE
DASH
WHOOSH
EH?
!!
Phillip's horse..??
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
N-
NO WAY
!?
THE APHRODISIAC IS WORKING PRETTY WELL!
Oh!
HEY, WHAT HAPPENED NOW? THE SCREEN—
aaaaa

BAM
BAM
UWAAAH!!
DON'T COME OVER!
W- WHAT SHOULD WE DO, INSTRUCTOR? SHOULD WE STOP THEM?
angry
UM... WHAT TO DO...
CUT DEEPER.. THIS WAY, THE SADDLE WILL DROP REALLY QUICKLY.
HOW MUCH SHOULD I CUT?
CHATTER
CHATTER
HEHE. THE VIDEO'S SO CLEAR. ♪
DOING SUCH A DESPICABLE THING!
ISN'T THAT THE ELFENSEIN'S HORSE?
GALLOP
GALLOP
SFX:SLAM
Uwah!
Uwahhhh! Calm down! Hey!! Wait..
.....

Clack
Gasp
Ouuuu..
EH?
!!
How does it feel to be thrown off your horse, Andrew?
Crap..!
H-how despicable! You..

Your life.
Give me.

ズサッ
ズサッ
ズサッ

Cheers!!
EH, YOU CAN'T DRINK?
YEAH, YOU, TOO.
I'M ONLY 17
THAT'S RIGHT I'VE ALWAYS SEEN YOU AS THE SAME AGE AS ME.
chatter
chatter
GOOD WORK PON

What are you saying? Fon is awesome. How can he be on the same level as you?
...you...
THAT PERSON WORSHIPS FON, SO THAT'S WHY HE SAID SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
Hey, idiot, shut up!
BUT ISN'T THAT TRUE? YOU'RE ALWAYS FON THIS, FON THAT.
Uwaa-ahhh!
EH, NICOLAS, LOOK AT FON.
!

THANK YOU
IT WAS SO COOL WHEN YOU TOOK HIS FLOWER IN THE END.
I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH A HATEFUL EXPRESSION ON THOSE PLATING BEFORE
THE HORSEBACK DUEL TODAY WAS REALLY AMAZING IT WAS SO FUN.
YOU SHOULD STOP DRINKING ALREADY
sneak
sneak
HE'S REALLY POPULAR, ISN'T HE, NICOLAS?
Nod
FON
SORRY, I'M GOING OVER THERE FOR A BIT
Nude dance?
HEY, WHAT ABOUT THE NUDE DANCE?
SWITCH

ANDREW
CLINK
W-what? The party just started!
.....
IT'S FINE EVEN IF YOU DON'T DANCE
.....
Eh...?

You probably thought I deserved it!
Why.
I don't really want to see you dance naked.
Liar!
If you want to dance, I won't stop you.
I didn't say I want to dance!
...Don't think I owe you anything for this!
I didn't think that.
...Ugh
But if you do anything again,
You'll understand then.
.....

...Hmph!
GRIT
Janis,
Huey,
Phillip!
Let's go!
SFX: FWIP

THOSE GUYS SHOULD QUIET DOWN A BIT WITH THIS
SFX: WHAM
Come on, today is a happy day! Let's celebrate it!
.....
Hey! Crudup, you stink of al~cohol!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? THIS IS THE AFTER PARTY. LET US DECIDE THE WINNER!
I'm, you drink juice
WHAT WINNER... HEY...
DRAG
DRAG
I CAN'T STAND YOU
chuckle
!

JACQUES I'M GOING ON MY RUN!
OKAY.
pulls on
SplaSH
It's been a few months since Visitation Day.
Andrew hasn't done anything since then.
第9話

Started to trust Fon at some point and were always around him
Our classmates have also,
Being scolded by their parents seemed to have been a big blow to them.
Hasn't changed one bit.
But Nicolas' attitude towards Fon,
SurPrised
!
Top...
Top
Top

gulp
JANIS...
His right arm and the part below his knee-cap are both top quality prosthetics.
.....
SQUEAK

Smile
MORNING YOU'RE UP EARLY
Well if it isn't Fon Fortinbras!
.....
YEAH
ARE YOU HERE FOR MORNING EXERCISES TOO?
RUN
.....
NO, I'M GOING BACK TO MY ROOM
UGH

grab
Wait!
thump
.....!
WHAT ARE YOU
A LOT OF STUFF MAY HAVE HAPPENED THANKS TO ADREW. BUT CAN'T WE TALK FOR A BIT?
His right hand is also...?
I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY TO YOU.
.....
I HEAR.
THAT YOU'RE REALLY OPPOSED TO THE BUYING AND SELLING OF CLONING TECHNOLOGY ON THIS ISLAND
let go

I LOST MUCH OF MY LIMBS FROM AN ACCIDENT.
I DO.
I HEARD YOU WEAR PROSTHETICS...
.....
YOU KNOW ABOUT MY BODY, RIGHT?
WHAT ARE YOU SUDDENLY
So that they'll grow back out as good as new.
But this arm and this leg... Aren't someone else's. My own genes were used...

THE REASON I CAN RUN LIKE THIS NOW IS ALL THANKS TO ILEGENES
.....
OTHER PLACES FORBID CLONING BEING ABLE TO RECEIVE THE BEST CLONING TREATMENT,
IT IS ALL BECAUSE ILEGENES IS THIS KIND OF ISLAND
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?
!
WHAT I MEAN IS THAT TO BE ABLE TO REGAIN LOST LIMBS IS LIKE BEING REBORN

.....
I HEARD THAT YOU'RE THE SON OF SOME-ONE VERY INFLUENTIAL TO THE ISLAND
IS THAT TRUE?
Heh..
If I am
So what?

PUSSY
!
JANIS' BROTHER?

AH, LOOK THAT'S THE GUY SITTING OVER THERE ON THAT BENCH.
ARE THEY TWINS?
EH, WHAT A SHOCKER! THEY LOOK NEARLY IDENTICAL!
HMM, GENERALLY SPEAKING, YES.
BUT THERE ARE RUMORS THAT HE'S A CLONE WHO WILL SUPPLY JANIS WITH ORGANS IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO HIM.
A CLONE?
If Janis is really related to the black market, then it would not be impossible.
If that is really true...
I'M GOING OVER.
EH?
IT'S TOO CRUEL, CUTTING HIM FROM THE WOMB AND MAKING HIM LIVE LIKE A NORMAL HUMAN.

nervous
AH! THIS IS...
!
EXCUSE ME.
looks
I WANTED TO SIT HERE AND WAIT FOR BROTHER. DO YOU WANT TO SIT?
nervous
IT'S OKAY I DON'T NEED TO SIT
.....?
If he is a clone...
Does he know
...ARE YOU A FRIEND OF MY BROTHER?
what kind of existence he is?
Or how this world looks at him?
If he does, he still...

WE'VE ONLY JUST MET SO THIS MAY BE A LITTLE RUDE... YOUR BROTHER...
.....
.....
!
he doesn't have any civil rights in this society.
Just a living body to be exploited when he is needed.
MY BROTHER IS VERY KIND...

smile
PLEASE TAKE CARE OF HIM!
If I were an existence like that...
SH!
SH!
SH!

...very cruel this island is...
AH... IT'S BEEN A YEAR SINCE OUR WELCOME CONCERT!
HOW RARE FOR CRUDUP TO BE SO QUIET.
BECAUSE MY FAMILY ARE MUSICIANS!
YEAH.
THE NEXT SONG IS
WHISPER
HEY, LOOK! THAT'S...

ISN'T THAT FON FORTINBRAS-SENPAI SITTING THERE?
I PASSED BY HIM AT THE DOOR HIS EYES ARE REALLY PRETTY!
HE LOOKS SO COOL HE'S REALLY SMART AND ATHLETIC TOO!
THEY MAY BE PEACOCK EYES BUT WHEN YOU LOOK INTO THEM, BUT THEY'RE LIKE THE CLEAR OCEAN.

OH.... FON, YOU'RE PRETTY POPULAR!
Do you need to grow them your self-grown?
Chuckle
HAHA...
shalc

.....
AH, LOOKS LIKE THEY'VE CHANGED SOME OF THE SONGS THIS YEAR.

WHAT'S WRONG?
Mozart
symphony
no 40
in G
minor
This song...
K550...
...NOTHING
But I can't just leave in the middle of the concert...
I'M FINE.

Father loved Mozart's symphonies
But he just wouldn't listen to this one...
...UGH
dizzy
Here it comes...
A splitting headache
Nausea
Since the first time I happened to hear this music outside, only to this melody...
thump
thump

THUMP
haa
THUMP
haa
I can't move!
I feel sick...
!?
SFX: RATTLE
Hey...
FON? YOUR FACE IS WHITE
FON! WHAT'S WRONG WITH FON?
CRUDUP AND NICOLAS, CAN YOU TWO HELP ME BRING FON TO THE INFIRMARY?
WHAT HAPPENED? HE WAS FINE JUST A MOMENT AGO...
CAN YOU WALK?
haa
haa
.....

HE CAN'T
LIFT
HOLD ON TIGHT
HMM...
HE DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE A FEVER. LET HIM REST A BIT AND WE'LL SEE WHAT HAPPENS
OKAY.
.....
Phew

DID YOU MAKE YOURSELF SICK?
YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN SURPRISINGLY HEALTHY SINCE WE STARTED SCHOOL... THIS IS RARE.
IT'S ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THIS. ONCE I HEAR MOZART'S K550,
I WOULD GET SICK
sigh
...UGH
Just by thinking about that melody, I'll...
DO YOU KNOW WHY?

Jacques, you heard it, too, didn't you? That noise was definitely coming from your gun!
EVEN I, WHO WAS USING THAT GUN, DIDN'T HEAR IT,
BUT YOU DID.
LAST TIME WHEN THE GUN BACKFIRED, THE ONLY ONE WHO HEARD ANYTHING STRANGE WAS YOU.
.....?
.....
MAYBE

What?
YOUR HEARING IS..
NO. HOW SHOULD I SAY IT

You also think my father did something to my body, don't you?
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT!
IT'S JUST SOMETIMES,
YOU LOOK
Look...
Very unstable...
!

He feels unstable, like he's used to living on land but still floats up and down in the water at the same time
Fon lacks the kind of certainty found from taking root in one place
He is just like an aquatic plant.
SO IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME NOT TO NOTICE HIM
THAT MAY BE TRUE,
BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYONE GET SICK FROM LISTENING TO MOZART
IT'S LIKE LIKING OR DISLIKING CERTAIN FOODS. I JUST DON'T LIKE THAT SONG. THAT'S ALL

I was there, too, but that kind of noise...
Am I the only abnormal one?
AGAIN...
creak
IF ANYTHING, I HEAR IT'S GOOD FOR THE BRAIN.
...I SEE.
FON...
THE PILLS YOUR ADOPTED FATHER'S DOCTORS GIVE YOU...
ARE THEY REALLY JUST SEDATIVES?

If they aren't sedatives, what are they?
IF NOT, WHAT ARE THEY?
!
.....
I CAN'T PINPOINT WHAT'S WRONG
..FON.
WHAT EXACTLY ..

That day, all the major news stations reported that the head of state will renew his term in office.
His corrupt politics will continue.
...That was
.....
The "future" that the people of Ilegenes have chosen.

第10話

CHRISFERSON IS STAYING IN POWER...
ANDREW AND THE OTHERS HAVE BEEN PRETTY QUIET LATELY. NOW, THEY'LL GET FULL OF THEMSELVES AGAIN.
SO YOUNG... WHO IS HE?
stare
WHO'S THE MAIN NEXT TO HIM?
OH, THAT'S DANIEL BROWN DANKAN HE'S A NEW OFFICIAL
SO THAT'S HIM...
I'VE HEARD OF HIM BEFORE. BUT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN HIM

HE'S YOUNG, BUT HE'S VERY CAPABLE.
THE STORY WAS THAT WHEN THE PRIME MINISTER WAS SUSPECTED OF EMBEZZLEMENT, HE NEARLY LOST HIS ELECTION BID.
THE REASON HIS PARTY STILL IS ABLE TO RISE UP LIKE THIS WAS BECAUSE OF DANKAN'S INGENUITY.
As long as there is no one willing to forcibly change the central administration, this island will continue its corruption
But,
Daniel B. Dankan...
DANKAN.
Nothing changed, and nothing will be changed.
Using violence to stamp out the voices calling for order.

DOES HE INTEREST YOU?
NO
I feel there's something about him, but...
.....
...How regretful.
I just find it disdainful.

ISN'T HE ONLY IN HIS 20S, THOUGH? AND HE'S ALREADY A CAPABLE, YOUNG OFFICIAL.
THAT'S RARE EVEN AMONG ILEGENES' POLITICIANS.
.....
POLITICIANS ARE ALL THE SAME.
.....
THEY'RE ALIGNED WITH THOSE ON THE INNER ISLAND FORGET ABOUT BANNING ILLEGAL CLONING...
THEY'RE PAVING THE WAY FOR IT AND FATTENING THEIR WALLETS.

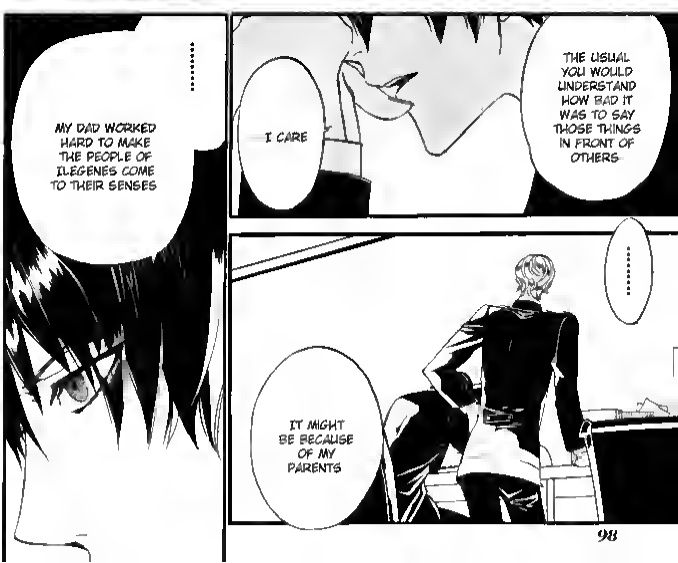
IT'S OVER FOR THIS WORLD.
THE PEOPLE STILL SUPPORT SUCH A CORRUPTED GOVERNMENT.
HOWEVER CAPABLE ONE IS, IF THEIR AIM ISN'T TO PURGE THIS ISLAND, NOTHING WILL CHANGE.
That's the problem!
SFX: CLATTER
ISN'T THERE ANYONE ON THIS ISLAND WHO STILL HAS A SENSE OF JUSTICE?
EON...?
BUT... ALTHOUGH IT'S ILLEGAL, IT'S ALREADY BECOME A COMMON OCCURRENCE. WHY TALK ABOUT A BAN?
BESIDES, THIS ISLAND THRIVES ON THAT...

.....
IT'S BECAUSE THEY'RE POLITICIANS THAT THEY SHOULD STAND UP AND SPEAK OUT AGAINST THE STATUS QUO.
OTHERWISE, WHO ELSE WILL?
THE PEOPLE OF ILEGENES ARE CORRUPTED!
I DON'T KNOW IF THIS IS CO-DEPENDENCY OR THEY'RE INTRIGUED WITH ONE ANOTHER
AS ARE THE SOLDIERS THAT PROTECT THESE PEOPLE.
BUT THESE PARLIAMENT OFFICIALS,

Go to hell!
Should all
.....
HP
...Ugh.

BUT...
HE'S NOT CRITICIZING ANYTHING... JUST COMPLAINING
...THE MILITARY ONLY LOOKS IMPRESSIVE, BUT THEY DO FORBID ANYONE TO CRITICIZE ITS SYSTEM
WILL HE BE OKAY?
IF THE INSTRUCTORS FIND OUT, IT'LL AFFECT HIS EVALUATION
.....
click...
FON.

I UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL, BUT SAYING THAT IN FRONT OF EVERYONE WAS TOO RECKLESS.
.....


THE USUAL YOU WOULD UNDERSTAND HOW BAD IT WAS TO SAY THOSE THINGS IN FRONT OF OTHERS
I CARE
.....
MY DAD WORKED HARD TO MAKE THE PEOPLE OF ILEGENES COME TO THEIR SENSES
.....
IT MIGHT BE BECAUSE OF MY PARENTS

THOSE PEOPLE WHO USED VIOLENCE TO SILENCE THEM,
AND THOSE WHO TOLERATED WHAT HAPPENED...
I CAN NEVER FORGIVE THEM
SOFTLY
The politicians who abuse their power for their own personal gain,
The people who support them...
THEY WERE JUST APPEALING TO EVERYONE
...BUT,
THE PLACE YOU'RE TRYING TO GET TO...
IS IN THEIR ARENA

.....
I GET IT.
Yeah.
THEN,
JUST KEEP YOUR TRUE FEELINGS INSIDE FOR NOW
UNTIL YOU GET TO THAT PLACE
I,
Can't end here.

I must suppress these insuppressible feelings.
YOU'RE RIGHT
!
What am I rushing for?
JACQUES...
SFX: TdP TdP
SFX: TdP

In order to get to the top...
glance
.....
And kill him!

To kill those people!
CRUP
Whose voice is spurring me on?
Is it my parents' remorseful voices?
In that case, I will...

It will return to the beautiful island I saw in pictures when I was young...
A world where even the artificial humans, created purely out of fun,
Can be free.
Change this island.
I will climb to the very top and hold absolute power.
I will purge this island. And the black market that my parents detested.
Even without those things, this island will not fall.

I know I can change.
I know I can do it.
I'm not alone.
With everyone's support,
We will definitely...

However, it usually fails little by little.

That man is...

The scar on his face.
.....
CLATTER
There's no mistake
.....?
WHAT'S WRONG,
FON?
.....
MY PARENTS...
HE WAS THE ONE WHO...
gasp

The succe-tive second spiral
Murdered them.
Has begun to turn.

IT'S TIME TO GET UP, SON
CLICK
HNN...
GOOD MORNING, FON
GOOD MORNING
DAD... MOM..
smile

HAPPY 13TH BIRTHDAY!
SO WARM...
Our usual morning kiss,
Hug,
I'm finally with you.
Ah...

第11話

There's no mistake
ba-thump
He was the man giving orders that day.
ba
The man who took my parents from me...
thump
Ba-thump
...Unh

I can finally avenge them.
sfx:ba-thump
HE SAID HE SAW THE MAN WHO KILLED HIS PARENTS.
HE'S NOT GOING TO...!
sfx:
I won't let him get away!
sfx:DA
WHERE ARE YOU TWO GOING?
I'll be right back. Wait here!

Fon!
Wait!
GRAB
You can't!
!?
LET GO!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, JACQUES!
FON...
WE CAN'T CAUSE A SCENE OUT HERE...
THAT PERSON HAD MY PARENTS...
THAT WAS DEFINITELY HIM!

CALM DOWN!
I'M BEGGING YOU...
...UNH
No! That man is leaving...!
It wasn't easy...
It wasn't easy finding him...!
For!

.....
.....
Why did you stop me?
SFX: SLAM
That was my chance to avenge my parents!
Answer me, Jacques!

FON, LET GO OF SUCH FOOLISH THOUGHTS.
WHAT REVENGE? YOU SHOULD LEAVE IT TO THE COPS.
COPS...?
WHAT CAN THE COPS ON THIS ISLAND DO?
smack
THE COPS ARE UN-RELIABLE!
THEY'VE ALL BEEN WON OVER WITH MONEY FROM THE BLACK MARKET'S PEOPLE
THEY DID ABSOLUTELY NOTHING!
ONCE THE INNER ISLAND GOT INVOLVED, THE COPS WEREN'T ABLE TO INTERVENE OR INVESTIGATE ANYTHING.
THEY STOPPED THEIR INVES-TIGATION AFTER ONLY ONE WEEK!
.....

I WANT TO GAIN POWER AND ONE DAY AVENGE MY PARENTS' DEATH...
FON
I swore and that's why I'm here
Now's the time
The only thing I can do is get revenge for my parents!
...I SWORE TO MYSELF I'LL ENTER THIS MILITARY ACADEMY AND BECOME STRONGER...
IF I CAN'T RELY ON THE COPS OR ANYONE ELSE, MY ONLY OPTION IS TO BECOME STRONG.

I...
Fon! Stop thinking about weird stuff.

Do you want to become a criminal and forfeit your life?
I don't care!
Damn it, calm down!
!!

YOUR PARENTS WOULDN'T WANT YOU TO GIVE UP YOUR FUTURE JUST TO AVENGE THEM, WOULD THEY?
I WOULD FEEL THAT WAY TOO IF I WERE YOUR PARENTS...
JUST CALM DOWN

...Ugh.
I CAN'T LET YOU BECOME A CRIMINAL FOR REVENGE.
WE'LL TELL THEM YOU SAW THAT MAN ?
GRIP
THUD
.....
WE'LL GO TO THE COPS TOGETHER TOMORROW.

OKAY
The day after

The sketch Jacques did of the killer was practically identical to the person himself.
The police were disinterested in what we told them.
But the cops had no response at all and didn't ask for any details
I TOLD YOU, DIDN'T I? WE CAN'T RELY ON THE POLICE
THEY DON'T WANT TO GET INVOLVED WITH THE BLACK MARKET.
.....
I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED THAT MAN'S FACE TURNED WHITE WHEN HE SAW THE SKETCH

COULD IT BE THEY ALREADY KNEW...?
WHO ON EARTH IS THAT MAN...?
...FON SEEMS TO BE REALLY TROUBLED LATELY.
...NO...
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
IT SEEMS LIKE EVER SINCE THAT DAY AT THE CAFE HE'S BEEN DEEPLY UNSETTLED
NICOLAS THOUGHT SO, TOO.

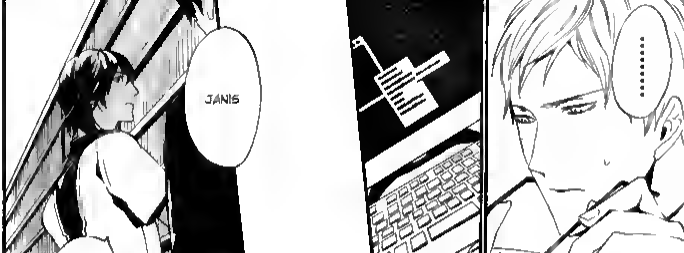
.....
FON... I HOPE HE DOESN'T DO ANYTHING RASH
CLICK
THIS VOICE.
KNOCK KNOCK
NICOLAS, CAN WE TALK?
FON.

tap
I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK.
SHUT
WHAT'S UP? IT'S RARE FOR YOU TO...
I NEED YOU TO HACK INTO THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S DATABASE. IT SHOULD BE EASY FOR YOU, RIGHT?
HACK?
...THAT'S A LICENSE PLATE?

I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE ANY TRACES.
WHY NOT GET AN OFFICIAL INQUIRY?
CAN I CLOSE THIS FOLDER?

I don't care.
Do it!
.....
But
Wait For!
This is illegal!
Gasp
I can't do that?!

THE OWNER IS SOMEONE ON THE INNER ISLAND.
IT'S A COMPANY CAR FROM THE BUSINESS THAT HANDLES ALBERT ROTH, THE TECHNOLOGY COMPANY'S DESIGNER BABY.
TAP TAP
TAP
IT REALLY DOES BELONG TO SOMEONE ON THE INNER ISLAND!
Is the man who killed my parents part of this company?
NICOLAS, WHERE'S JANIS RIGHT NOW?
...HE SAID HE HAD TO GO TO THE LIBRARY.
BUT WHY DID YOU NEEDED TO KNOW THIS...!
THE LIBRARY, RIGHT?
CLATTER


JANIS
HM?
.....
click

WE NEED TO TALK

NO
?
DO YOU KNOW THIS MAN?
Show
YOU ACTUALLY APPROACHED ME FIRST...
SURE

THEN WHAT ABOUT THIS MAN?
flip
.....
...YOU.
ARE YOU LOOKING FOR THESE PEOPLE? WHAT'S YOUR PURPOSE?
I CAN'T TELL YOU THAT
THEN...
RE..LLY?

WHY ARE YOU ASKING ME?
THAT'S BECAUSE...
YOU WERE BORN ON THE INNER ISLAND.
click
.....

He didn't deny it...?
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE IT'D BE FASTER IF YOU ASK THE PEOPLE AT THE BARS ON EAST 3RD STREET
Inner island.
East 3rd Street
IS THIS IT?
WHAT A STALE PLACE...

WHAT ARE YOU...?
Shock
blow
OH... YOU'RE SURPRISINGLY PRETTY UP CLOSE
HOW ABOUT IT? WANNA BUY ME?
MY SALES WERE PRETTY BAD TODAY THERE WERE NO CUSTOMERS...
THAT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS!

...THEN,
Do you want to sell your genes?
.....!?
YOU'RE VERY PRETTY. YOU'LL BE ABLE TO FETCH A GOOD PRICE.
I'LL WON'T HURT. JUST SOME QUICK FIDDLING WITH YOUR ORAL CAVITY AND MUCOUS MEMBRANE.
THEN, THAT STORE OVER THERE WILL BUY IT READILY.
I'LL GET A MIDDLEMAN FEE THAT WAY.

Not bad, right? Just little by little...
TOO FRIGHTEN-ING
ugh
Hey...! Wait ...!
What quick fiddling...?
That kind of store might dismember me.
PLOP
THUMP
!
SORRY
.....

DASH
TCH, HE HEARD US! GO AFTER HIM!
SHIT...!
WE CAN SELL THEM FOR A GOOD PRICE...
HEY, DID YOU SEE THAT? THAT KID'S EYES...
AREN'T THEY PEACOCK EYES?
tap
tap
tap
WH..IT'S WRONG WITH THIS PLACE?
!!
MERMAID ...?
hm
hm

wobble
IT'S STILL ALIVE...?
...Ugh
HIGH
A defected product...
cough
cough
cough
This place is even crueler than I imagined...
sway
.....
...I'M NOT SURE.
PLEASE LOOK CLOSER. HAVE YOU SEEN THIS PERSON?
.....

WHAT'S YOUR ORDER, KID?
Other than water
HAVE YOU SEEN THIS MAN?
NOTHING. ANYWAY, THIS FACE...
...Argh
AH... GO HOME, GO HOME.
IF YOU DON'T DRINK, WE ALSO DEAL IN THE "BLACK" BUSINESS, YOU KNOW?
Creep
...I'LL ASK SOMEONE ELSE.
WHAT'S UP WITH THIS? I COULDN'T FIND OUT ANYTHING
Annoyed
If you're looking for someone, it'd be faster if you ask the people at the bars on East 3rd street.
HM...
YES. ANYTHING YOU CAN TELL ME ABOUT HIM IS FINE.
...YOU'RE LOOKING FOR THIS GUY?

AMLINA'S JOE...
I UNDERSTAND AMLINA'S RIGHT?
subtle
IF YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT THIS MAN GO FIND AMLINA'S JOE
...IT SHOULD BE AROUND HERE...? DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THERE'S ANYONE...
AMLINA
AMLINA...
.....

SO YOU'RE THE ONE? THE GUY WHO'S BEEN ASKING AROUND FOR SOMEONE?
WHAT THE? THESE PEOPLE.

RUSTLE
Haha! What are you saying? You've been duped!
Don't hurt his face, got it?
You sure are an ignorant little master!
HEH. YOU'RE KINDA PRETTY AND YOU'VE GOT PEACOCK EYES!
I SHOULD BE ABLE TO SELL THEM FOR A GOOD PRICE TO THOSE DIRTY-RICH BASTARDS.
ARE YOU AMUNA'S JOE?

THUD
...Suou!
SFX: WHACK
GR
HB
PULL
THUD
WHACK
ARGH!
GLAAH
BANG

What are you guys doing? He's only one person. We win by sheer numbers!
THERE ARE DEFINITELY A LOT OF THEM.
UGH.
...! He's escaping!
Here on the inner island, don't think you can escape from our clutches!

WHAT DIFFICULT GUYS...!
Where'd that guy run off to?
He has to be around here! Go look for him!
slump
DID I THROW THEM OFF?
I'M DISADVANTAGED FOR NOT BEING FAMILIAR WITH THE AREA
IF THEY KEEP CHASING ME
!!
SHOCK
GRAB
EH?

Janis!?
WHY ARE YOU HERE...?
YOU'RE...
FROM BROTHER'S SCHOOL, AREN'T YOU?

第12話

SO, THEY STILL HAVE A NORMAL COFFEE SHOP LIKE THIS ON THE INNER ISLAND.
smile
THANKS. YOU'VE REALLY HELPED ME.

I WAS JUST LOOKING FOR SOMEONE
BUT I GOT CHASED BY SOME STRANGE PEOPLE HOW TROUBLESOME
YOUR EYES
ESPECIALLY HERE ON THE INNER ISLAND.
PEACOCK EYES ARE VERY PRECIOUS A LOT OF PEOPLE WANT ITS DNA.
IF YOU'RE NOT CAREFUL YOU MIGHT BE MISTAKEN FOR AN AI

COME TO THINK OF IT, JACQUES HAS MENTIONED IT BEFORE, TOO...
I SEE. I WAS TOO CARELESS
OH! IF YOU DON'T MIND, YOU CAN WEAR MY IR* GLASSES

*IR = Infrared

IR GLASSES?
Such an expensive thing...
THEY'RE A LITTLE WORN FROM USE BUT YOU CAN STILL SEE CLEARLY WITH IT AT NIGHT.
IT'S BETTER IF YOU WEAR THEM WHILE YOU'RE HERE

THANK YOU.
ARE YOU JANIS'...
SNAP

I'M JS
ES.
ES MEANS "ID", DOESN'T IT?
EVERYONE CALLS ME ES
EH?

(MORE CORRECTLY IT'S A FORM OF THE SELF)
WHAT A NICE NAME.

I'M...
FON, RIGHT?
.....
I DIDN'T ASK FOR YOUR NAME WHEN WE TALKED AND JUST LEFT.
I'M SORRY ABOUT BEFORE.
ACTUALLY, I'VE KNOWN WHO YOU ARE SINCE THE TIME WE TALKED AT SCHOOL.
THE FIRST TIME I SAW YOU WAS DURING LAST YEAR'S VISITATION DAY.
NOT AT ALL. I FELT SORRY FOR BROTHER, BUT I...
...WAS ATTRACTED TO YOUR HEROIC BEARING.
...AH, YOU CAME TO CHEER JANIS ON, DIDN'T YOU?
DID WE UPSET YOU?

AND I'VE HEARD ABOUT YOU FROM BROTHER
YOUR GRADES ARE ACTUALLY EVEN BETTER THAN BROTHER'S. I WAS REALLY SHOCKED WHEN I FIRST FOUND OUT

JANIS TOLD YOU ABOUT ME?
YEAH. YOUR NAME CAME UP A LOT IN BROTHER'S CIRCLE
I WAS WONDERING WHAT KIND OF PERSON YOU WERE SO I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO TALK TO YOU
Ah...

WHEN I MET YOU AT SCHOOL, IT FELT LIKE YOU WERE REALLY TROUBLED BY SOMETHING...
I'M REALLY HAPPY THAT I CAN TALK TO YOU LIKE THIS.

SPEAKING OF WHICH, HOW LUCKY TO MEET YOU HERE.
.....
They have the same face
But he's much more expressive than Janis...
Yup
YOU SAID YOU WERE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE?
IF I OVERSTEP ANY BOUNDARIES, I APOLOGIZE.
BUT FOR SOMEONE LIKE YOU TO BE LOOKING IN THE INNER ISLAND...
WHO ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?
I MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP.
YEAH.
NO MATTER WHO I ASKED, NO ONE WOULD TELL ME ANYTHING

Backyard...
!
ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH THE INNER ISLAND?
THIS PLACE IS LIKE MY FAMILY'S BACKYARD
rustle

.....
THEN...
AFTER I SHOWED JANIS HE TOLD ME TO ASK AROUND EAST 3RD STREET
HAVE YOU EVER SEEN THIS MAN?

.....
WHAT IS IT?
BROTHER DID...?
SOR-RY...
I DON'T KNOW HIM.
I SEE...
BUT...
JUDGING FROM THE REACTIONS OF THE PEOPLE AT EAST 3RD STREET, HE MUST BE RELATED TO THE BLACK MARKET
!
SO IT'S TRUE?

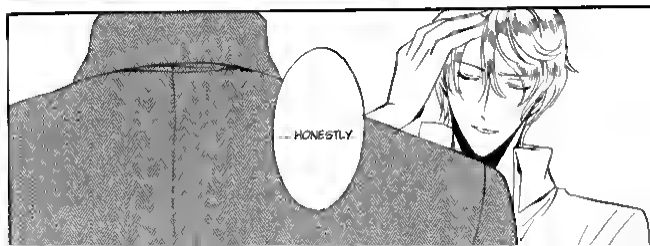
SO THAT MAN REALLY IS FROM THE BLACK MARKET...!
THAT'S THE PLACE PEOPLE GO FOR INFORMATION ON THE BLACK MARKET.
THANKS, ES
THEN, I'LL CONTINUE ASKING AROUND.
I UNDERSTAND
!
CLATTER
FON, WAIT
.....?

IF IT'S OKAY WITH YOU, LET ME BE YOUR GUIDE
IT'S VERY DANGEROUS TO WANDER AROUND HERE WITHOUT SOMEONE TO LEAD YOU
!
HA.
HA...
HA.
HA.
PHEW...

FON, THAT IDIOT. WHERE DID HE RUN OFF TO...?

THEN, HE GOT INTO A STRUGGLE WITH SOME WEIRD PEOPLE AND RAN OFF.
Haa...
UP UNTIL HALF-WAY THROUGH, I WAS RIGHT ON HIS TAIL.

I HOPE HE'S OKAY.


... HONESTLY.

!
That man...
WHERE IS HE GOING...?
The partner of the man Fon's looking for!

RENO
GENERAL
CORPORATION…
RENO?
ISN'T JANIS' SURNAME 'RENO'?
COULD IT BE…
We can say that person's parents are powerful people on the inner island…

GOOD EVENING
OH WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TONIGHT?
I'M HERE TO LOOK FOR SOMEONE

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS PERSON?
?
HM... NO, I DON'T KNOW HIM

I SEE...
OKAY, THANKS.
.....
IT'S NO PROBLEM.

FON, LET'S GO TO THE NEXT ONE.
OKAY...
THE BARTENDER'S ATTITUDE IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM WHEN I CAME HERE.
HE'S ABLE TO GO ANYWHERE WITH THAT FACE
Whether it was a high-class bar or a members-only club...
This place is like my family's backyard.

Who are you ...?
LOOKS LIKE WE STILL CAN'T FIND
Es...
.....

IT'S ALMOST MORNING.
.....
IN THE END, WE DIDN'T FIND OUT ANYTHING.
YEAH...
ARE YOU GOOD AT DRAWING?
NOT AS GOOD AS YOU.
I JUST LIKE TO DRAW, THAT'S ALL.
I ALWAYS COME HERE
TO DRAW

USUALLY, I CAN'T GO OUT WITHOUT BROTHER'S PERMISSION.
JANIS, TOO?
NO
BROTHER IS A REALLY GOOD ARTIST, BUT HE DOESN'T LIKE IT AS MUCH AS I DO.
BUT HE SOMETIMES GIVES ME TIME TO COME OUT AND DRAW.
TODAY, TOO?
HA!
TODAY'S SPECIAL.
OUR CAT'S GONE, SO I CAME OUT TO LOOK FOR IT.
ES... YOU NEED JANIS PERMISSION TO GO OUT?

He actually needs his brother's permission to go out. What kind of brothers are they?

.....

I DIDN'T FIND THE CAT... BUT I MET YOU.

HOW EXACTLY ARE YOU TWO BROTHERS?

OH, YEAH. THE PERSON YOU'RE LOOKING FOR

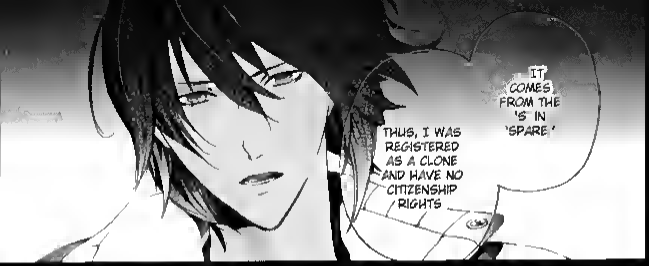
IT LOOKS LIKE IT'LL TAKE SOME TIME. I CAN HELP YOU LOOK IF YOU DON'T MIND.
I'LL CONTACT YOU IF I HEAR ANYTHING.

EH ...?
ARE YOU REALLY THE SONS OF A POWERFUL PERSON ON THE INNER ISLAND?
I
THE SON OF A POWERFUL PERSON IS MY BROTHER.
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN ...?
STRICTLY SPEAKING, I'M NOT HIS BROTHER.

I'm a human cloned from his genes
I'm Janis' clone
...Eh.
CLENCH
Why do something like that?

I WAS CREATED TO BE HIS PERFECT SPARE.
SHOULD ANYTHING HAPPEN TO HIS BODY, IN ORDER TO HAVE SUITABLE ORGANS READILY AVAILABLE,
I EXIST AS A LIVING SPARE BODY.
Perfect... spare...
It's used when the person gets sick or hurt.
It is an illegal artificial body that's prevalent among the rich.
When the [illegible] a brain transplant is done [illegible] the spare...

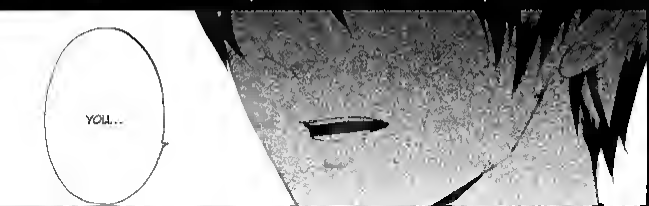
I've only heard rumors about that stuff.
SOME OF THE ELDERLY WOULD EVEN CHANGE THEIR BODIES FOR YOUNGER ONES...
BUT THAT'S AN EXCEPTION. MOREOVER, IT COSTS A LOT TO MAINTAIN
Es...
AS FOR ES,
I MAY BE 7 YEARS YOUNGER THAN HIM, BUT WE USED GROWTH ACCELERATOR SO THAT MY BODY CAN GROW TO THE SAME AGE AS BROTHER
IN THE RENO HOUSE, I LOOK AFTER BROTHER AS HIS YOUNGER BROTHER
Clones are usually kept under strict guard in a womb...
But this is too...



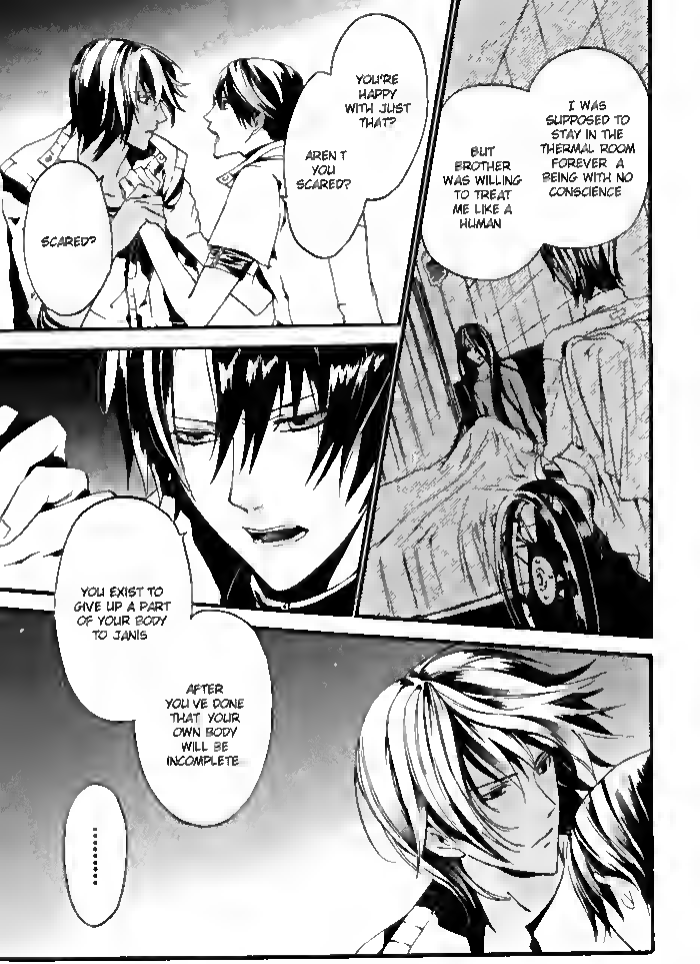
They came from the same genes.

Biologically, they are identical beings.

Yet they are treated so differently.



I KNOW WHAT YOUR BACKGROUND IS, BUT...
YOU'VE NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT IT? YOU'RE JUST A SPARE FOR SOMEONE ELSE.
YOU'RE A HUMAN, TOO, BUT...
I NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT IT
BECAUSE I WAS CREATED SOLELY FOR THIS
...NII.
I'M REALLY GRATEFUL FOR JANIS-NIISAN.
Liar... How can you not?
You were created to be another's substitute!


I WAS SUPPOSED TO STAY IN THE THERMAL ROOM FOREVER A BEING WITH NO CONSCIENCE
BUT BROTHER WAS WILLING TO TREAT ME LIKE A HUMAN
YOU'RE HAPPY WITH JUST THAT?
AREN'T YOU SCARED?
SCARED?
YOU EXIST TO GIVE UP A PART OF YOUR BODY TO JANIS
AFTER YOU'VE DONE THAT YOUR OWN BODY WILL BE INCOMPLETE
.....

Janis-niisan
Is my God.
I EXIST BECAUSE HE'S HERE
SO
GOD...?
THIS ISN'T SOME MISFORTUNE

I CAN MEET YOU BECAUSE OF THIS
BUT...
I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY TIMES I'VE BEEN GRATEFUL FOR HIM TODAY
!
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER TOLD ANYONE ABOUT THIS SINCE I WAS BORN

IF YOU DON'T MIND CAN WE SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN?
I think I've come to like you a lot
Es...
WE HAVE TO KEEP IT A SECRET
FROM JANIS-NIISAN

!
CLICK
...AH!
CREAK
IT'S UNLOCKED

You're still underage.
But you've already learned to go out partying on the inner island?
Jacques...

あとがき。

こんにちは。原作者の桑原水菜です。
イルゲネスの国立軍学校は全寮制です。あまり知られていないことですが、実は共学です。
女性士官候補生もウェルカムです。なのに男子の姿しか見あたりません。実は、過去に女性士官もいないではなかったのですが、三流軍学校の評判は余程悪かったのか、ここ数十年は女性の姿も見あたらず　。（イルゲネスの「頭のきれる女」は、軍には見向きもしないということでしょうか。←哀）最近では「女性士官候補生、絶賛募集中」らしいです。
と、裏設定を披露してみましたところで、第二巻です。
そんなこんなで色恋トラブルに巻き込まれることもなく、首相の息子のねちっこい嫌がらせに鍛えられて（？）すくすくと育ったフォンも、無事進級です。目をきらきらさせて「フォーティンプラス先輩！」と追っかけてくる無邪気な後輩などは、今のところ見あたりませんが（柱の陰にはいるかもしれません）そんな初々しい後輩たちも、実はフォンより一寸上という事実　　（＝二学年スキップ）。夏服も披露してます。プラティーン、ひらひらないんだ！　とカチル先生のラフを見て衝撃が走りました。な、夏のプラティーンはまともだ！　と（笑）
思えば軍服は「厳格禁欲カッチリ」だから敬礼が似合うのかもしれません。プラティーンのひらひら制服で敬礼する姿を想像したら、なんだか不思議な雰囲気に。実は敬礼の形も違ったりするのでしょうか。貴族っぽかったりするのでしょうか。そのあたりはカチル先生に悩んでいただくことにして　　（笑）。二本指立てて頭のあたりでチャ～～とかだったら、びっくりしますが。それはそれで白い歯がキラッと光りそうで、素敵です。
そんなふうで軍学校ネタは尽きませんが、物語のほうは舞台を島裏に広げながら、不穏な方向に向かっていきます。エスとの出会いがフォンに何をもたらすか。
どうぞ次巻もお楽しみに。

桑原水菜

イルゲネス～黒塔の軌跡～②

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■著者
桑原水菜×石振カチル
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■発行人
保坂嘉弘

■発行所
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Mag GARDEN

ルゲネス国立軍学校に入学してしばらく経ち、
者と知識をとり、孤立しがちだったフォンも、
のルームメイトとなったジェイクには
少しずつ心をひらいていった。
ある夜、悪夢にうなされ発作を起こしたフォン。
ジェイクに明かしたフォンを苦しめる悪夢の原因は、
両親と闇市場の因縁と、凄惨な過去で——。